

WASHINGTON CITY.

FRIDAY MORNING, JAN. 26, 1855.

CONGRESS—THURSDAY.

SENATE.—The Chair laid before the Senate two messages from the President of the United States, one in relation to the purchase of the Louisiana Purchase, and the other in relation to the purchase of the Louisiana Purchase, and the other in relation to the purchase of the Louisiana Purchase.

Mr. Chase introduced a bill to provide for the improvement of the navigation of the Ohio river; which was made the special order for Monday next.

Mr. Cooper called up his resolutions on the subject of the immigration into the United States from foreign countries of convicts and paupers, and spoke at some length on the subject. Mr. Brodhead and Mr. Weller moved to amend his resolutions by adding others declaring that all secret organizations for political purposes are contrary to the genius of our institutions and dangerous to the liberties of the people, &c.; but, without taking the question upon the adoption of the resolutions, the further consideration of the matter was postponed, and the army appropriation bill was taken up, and discussed by Messrs. Shields, Cass, Rusk, and others until the hour of adjournment.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report of the Secretary of the Interior and the Postmaster General, together with accompanying documents, stating what has been done in execution of the act of Congress to provide for the accommodation of the courts of the United States in the cities of New York and Philadelphia; which was referred to a select committee of five.

The House then resumed the consideration of the bill providing for the ascertainment and satisfaction of French spoliation claims; which was opposed by Messrs. Orr and Millson, and favored by Messrs. Phillips, and Bay of Virginia.

Without taking any question upon the bill or its amendments, the committee rose, and the House adjourned at 10 minutes of 4 o'clock.

THE NEWS BY THE PACIFIC.

By the arrival of the Pacific at New York from Liverpool we have dates from the Crimea to the 31st instant. Contrary to general expectation, no further fighting had taken place, and the indications are (as we intimated in yesterday's issue of the Union) that no serious offensive operations will be undertaken by the allies until the result of the peace negotiations at Vienna was definitely known. The whole complexion of the news is decidedly pacific; and, with the advance in the English funds, we may look for a corresponding upward movement on this side of the Atlantic.

KENTUCKY.

At a democratic meeting in Washington county, to appoint delegates to the State convention which assembles in March to nominate candidates for governor and lieutenant-governor, the following resolutions were adopted:

"Resolved, That this meeting, appreciating the propriety of publicly expressing the political sentiments which we hold on all public questions, avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our unqualified approbation of the administrative acts of Lazarus W. Powell since he has been called by the people to preside over this Commonwealth.

"Resolved, That, as Union men, democrats, and Kentuckians, we approve the passage by the last session of the General Assembly, which leaves to the people the right of electing the Governor and the members of the House of Representatives, and the latter pledged to carry out those principles at the bidding of a secret brotherhood."

TENNESSEE.

The two parties in this State are preparing for the issue which will be tried in the elections in August next. As far as we have observed, the democrats are united in their preference of the present governor, Andrew Johnson, as their candidate. The indications are strong that the whigs will select as their candidate the Hon. Meredith P. Gentry. If these two gentlemen should be competitors, the contest will be one of unusual interest. They are both politicians of eminence and of acknowledged ability. It is not yet in our power to state what will be the leading issue in the canvass.

We have already announced that Col. Samuel A. Smith declines being a candidate for re-election, and we understand that Col. Churchill has come to the same determination. The only announcement which has met our eye is that of Dr. Thos. A. Anderson as a candidate in Gen. Cullon's district. We have understood that Maj. Savage, who represented a portion of that district for several years, is also a candidate, but we have seen no announcement of his name. We see that a correspondent of one of the Nashville papers strongly recommends Gen. Wm. B. Campbell as a candidate in Mr. Ready's district. Gen. Campbell was for many years the representative of Gen. Cullon's district, but now resides in Mr. Ready's.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The New Hampshire Patriot of the 22d instant contains the following:

"We have reliable information from different sections of the State that the democrats in the know-nothing order are withdrawing rapidly, and that many who are doing the same—all disgusted with the corrupt doings of its managers. It is also a fact that many of the honest men among the free-soilers are openly denouncing the machinery of the thing and the results of its operations at Manchester; for it is apparent that, although the order is abolition to the core, yet it ostracizes every honest man among that class of its members—every man who will not sacrifice principle to temporary expediency."

"We assure our friends that 'State's kingdom' is tumbling down, and the prospect is that by the day of election the know-nothing claims will present a beggarly account of empty boxes."

THE NEW PENSION BILL.

At the request of several delegates of the late soldiers' convention, we republish the following bill, introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. Wentworth, of Illinois:

A bill granting pensions to all persons engaged in the war of 1812, and the Indian war prior thereto, and to their widows.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That each of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, who performed military or naval service in any regiment, company, or detachment, or on board any vessel of the United States, or any of the States, who were mustered or were received into service and regularly discharged, in the war with Great Britain, declared on the 15th of June, 1812, and any Indian war since 1790, shall be placed on the pension roll of the United States during his natural life, commencing on the 4th day of March next after the passage of this act, and payable semi-annually, at the same rate per month which he received, or was entitled to receive, according to his rank in the service aforesaid.

Sec. 2. And he it further enacted, That in case of the death of any such officer, non-commissioned officer, musician, or private, before or after the passage of this act, who shall have served as aforesaid, leaving a widow, such widow shall be placed on the pension roll for life, at the same rate of monthly pay as her husband was entitled to for his service, or would have been entitled to receive, if he had not been placed on the pension roll.

Sec. 3. And he it further enacted, That in case of the death of any person embraced in the provisions of this act during the period intervening between the semi-annual payments herein directed to be made, the proportionate amount which shall accrue between the last semi-annual payment and the death of such person shall be paid, if it be an officer or soldier, to his widow, if there be one, and if not, to his children; and if it be a widow, to her children or legal representative.

INAUGURAL ADDRESSES OF KNOW-NOTHING GOVERNORS.

We have before us the inaugural addresses of the governors of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. It is currently reported that the address of his excellency of Massachusetts was written by a foreigner of excellent character and fair talents; but the similarity of words, ideas, and sentiments of the three addresses is so startlingly complete, that we are more inclined to the belief that they are the joint work of the grand councils of the States already named—the three know-nothing governors merely acting as the organs and mouthpieces of their secret and unyielding rulers. And here we must object to the bad taste evinced by the author or authors of these intensely patriotic compositions. There is a ludicrous lack of individuality in all of them. Gov. Gardner neither talks nor writes as he is made to talk or write in his inaugural; and as for Gov. Pollock—who is a very amiable gentleman, in spite of his rabid abolitionism—we are quite sure that he must have laughed in his sleeve when he opened boldly with an attack upon the Pope and wound up gracefully with a stave from "The Star Spangled Banner." Gov. Causey, of Delaware, follows in the same track, and in the same train of thought and language, but, in the place of edging off his philippic with a star-spangled extract, he agreeably varies the tune by the adoption of a quotation in great demand by belligerent country editors during an exciting county canvass.

There is an intentional omission in the address of Gov. Causey which not only exhibits the cunning of the know-nothing leaders in a striking light, but which should effectually open the eyes of the South to the insidious wiles of a party warmed into a sudden and unnatural growth by the fires of religious and political bigotry and intolerance. In Pennsylvania and Massachusetts abolitionism is closely and inseparably connected with know-nothingism; and, consequently, in the inaugural addresses of the governors of these States we find sentiments on the slavery question which favor strongly of having received the previous endorsement of Lloyd Garrison or Fred Douglass. But Delaware is a slave State, and while it would be dangerous to alarm the public sentiment of that Commonwealth, it would be equally dangerous to give utterance to any opinion which might give offence to the abolitionists of the North. In this dilemma Gov. Causey shows himself a worthy member of the new and secret party. He says nothing.

THE CUBA QUESTION IN THE SPANISH CORTES.

We published, some time since, the proceedings in the Spanish Constituent Cortes, in which it was resolved by that body that they approved the sentiment of the Minister of State, who had declared that the Spanish government would never consent to the sale of Cuba, considering it as a sale of the national honor. It is not our purpose now to revive the discussion of the Cuban question; on that subject we have spoken our mind with earnestness, and we know no reason for modifying any of the positions we have advanced. Our present purpose is to bring to the attention of our readers a few extracts from a speech delivered on the 18th December by Don Luis de Mariategui, representative of San Sebastian, which called for the declaration of the Minister of State to which we have already referred. There are passages in this speech which we might well make the subject of comment; but we forbear to do so because we know that the proper comments will readily occur to the reader. Perhaps the most important declaration in the speech is that which discloses the hostility of Louis Napoleon to our government, and the further opinion that England could not be induced to make war upon us on account of Cuba. But, without comment, we make the following extracts:

"Although the majority of the representatives in this assembly are now beginning their political career, they are all, I feel sure of it, conversant with the state of our colonial politics, and know what are the dangers that threaten our maritime possessions, especially the island of Cuba. Those dangers come not from the discontent of the Cuban population, though we must agree that they have a right to ask for some political as well as administrative and economical reforms; those dangers grow from the existence elsewhere of an ambitious democracy, proud of its absolute sovereignty. A democracy, when it has attained such a height, is essentially tyrannical, imagining that there can be no obstacles to the accomplishment of its ambitious schemes.

"I cannot but be at the moment of the existence of those tendencies the immortal Washington and his illustrious companions, the founders of the greatest of republics. Neither do I accuse their worthy successors. I only accuse that European democracy, which, conscious that its hour has not yet come, nor perhaps will ever come, in this continent, seeks, like Kosuth, a refuge there, and throwing away the legacy of the great Washington, preaches only war and devastation."

"What were the elements which entered in the organization of those expeditions which in 1850 and 1851 left the American shores to invade the island of Cuba? Only filibusters and other similar characters, led by an unfortunate Spanish general, who, abusing the confidence of his superiors, was honored with a commission in Cuba, and afterwards dishonored himself and the Spanish name. These expeditions have, nevertheless, had a most important result—that of showing the elements of resistance we have in Cuba, and impressing the conviction that it cannot be conquered so easily as were the Mexican territories. The punishment which followed those expeditions was indeed terrible, though not unjust; and the energy of the Captain-General Concha preserved unimpaired our rich Cuban empire, rendering, at the same time, more easy for his successor the defence of the island."

"But now, I ask, have those dangers disappeared? On the contrary, gentlemen, perhaps they are now nearer than before. The States in the south of the Union, and also those in the north, covet the annexation of Cuba, each for different purposes, and they take up every subject which is likely to occasion any misunderstanding between our own and the American government. The question of the Black War of 1851 is also a fact that many of the honest men among the free-soilers are openly denouncing the machinery of the thing and the results of its operations at Manchester; for it is apparent that, although the order is abolition to the core, yet it ostracizes every honest man among that class of its members—every man who will not sacrifice principle to temporary expediency."

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AMERICAN ENTERPRISE.

In despite of its bitter hostility to our system of government, the London Times is compelled, once in a while, to advert to our energy and enterprise in order to stimulate Englishmen to emulate our "go-aheadness." We have read the following article, in a recent number of that journal, with a more than ordinary degree of satisfaction, and we commend it to the attentive perusal of our patrons and others, particularly the members of Congress:

"Just now we override even Mammon. The very lands of gold have lost their attractions compared with the scene of European strife, and scarce a thought, probably, is given to new Spain or to the Pacific when despatches from Balaklava and Sebastopol are at hand. In the intelligence from the gold countries on Tuesday there is one little paragraph which reflected with no small significance on affairs in the Crimea, and which will suggest, we think, some conclusions not altogether agreeable to British pride. Our California correspondent, writing from San Francisco, observed that they now had a weekly mail to and from the Atlantic States, and he further added, that on the last occasion the transit of this mail from New York to San Francisco had been accomplished in 23 days 13 hours. Even this, however, was not enough to satisfy American notions of velocity and enterprise, for a certain 'express house' in San Francisco had been making arrangements to carry the mails express, by rail, by horse, across the whole Mexican territory from Acapulco to Vera Cruz, by which service San Francisco would be brought within sixteen days' post of New Orleans. Now, the reader will no doubt recollect that on Monday morning last we thought ourselves tolerably fortunate in being able to lay before the public detailed intelligence from Sebastopol up to the 7th instant, and in point of fact we may say that if mails arrive in London from Balaklava in less than three weeks' time it is a pretty good post. Let us compare, then, the 'services' between San Francisco and New York on one side, and Balaklava and London on the other. New York and San Francisco are separated from each other by the whole breadth of the North American continent. By sea the communication involves a long voyage from New York to Panama, a painful and uncertain passage across the isthmus which has been making arrangements to carry the mails express, by rail, by horse, across the whole Mexican territory from Acapulco to Vera Cruz, by which service San Francisco would be brought within sixteen days' post of New Orleans. Now, the reader will no doubt recollect that on Monday morning last we thought ourselves tolerably fortunate in being able to lay before the public detailed intelligence from Sebastopol up to the 7th instant, and in point of fact we may say that if mails arrive in London from Balaklava in less than three weeks' time it is a pretty good post. Let us compare, then, the 'services' between San Francisco and New York on one side, and Balaklava and London on the other. New York and San Francisco are separated from each other by the whole breadth of the North American continent. 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